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Hamilton - Wentworth, Catholic  
Children's Aid Society

**L** Parents - Child Together  
project; summary  
report

Jan/79 - Jan/80







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SUMMARY REPORT  
P.A.C.T. PROJECT  
JANUARY 15/79 to JANUARY 11/80

CO-ORDINATOR  
Mr. D. Birtwistle, B.S.W.  
DIRECTOR  
Ms. S. Larsen, S.S.W.

A CANADA WORKS PROJECT  
SPONSORED BY THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S  
AID SOCIETY OF HAMILTON WENTWORTH



## SUMMARY REPORT of P.A.C.T. PROJECT

January 15/79 to January 11/80

### INTRODUCTION

Sponsored by the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton Wentworth, through a Canada Works Grant, the P.A.C.T. Project (Parent and Child Together) was a new after school project designed to offer an alternative to admitting children to the care of the C.C.A.S. The project offered individual counselling, life skills, recreational activities, group process sessions, and family sessions to parents and children, ages 8 to 16, in a home like setting. Its intention was to reduce the admission of children to care and thus to avoid family disruption and to strengthen family relationships. Six counsellors taught young people how to relate to adults, basic life skills, and provided parenting training to parents.

### PROGRESS OF P.A.C.T. PROJECT

January 15/79 to February 28/79

#### (a) House Search

The project was delayed considerably by verification by City Hall of the zoning qualifications. Upon receiving a letter of clarification, a house was rented at 74-74½ Walnut Street South in Hamilton. Occupancy of the first two floors was on February 19, 1979.

#### (b) Staff

Six staff people were hired through Canada Manpower to begin work with P.A.C.T. January 15/79. Mr. David Birtwistle of C.C.A.S., and co-ordinator of the project, conducted the job interviews and hired those qualified to fill the following areas of expertise:

- Director
- Primary Tutor
- Parent Role Model
- Clinician
- Back-up Client Interviewer
- Counsellors

Time was spent orienting staff to their duties and to C.C.A.S. policies.





Funding aspects of the project were reviewed by staff and the development of a group dynamic among staff members was examined. Second-hand furniture was acquired by staff for the P.A.C.T. house after an extensive community search.

(c) Program Planning and Research

During this period, staff reviewed films, researched corporate donations, established a duty roster, etc. Weekly programming was established to be the following:

- Monday - Recreation
- Tuesday - Arts and Crafts
- Wednesday - Group Discussion
- Thursday - Life Skills
- Friday - Outings

Staff began the design of the contract form, referral form, process questionnaire, information form, termination form and follow-up form.

March 1979

(a) Organization

The Fire and Health Departments inspected the premises and made recommendations which were then referred to the landlord. The landlord completed minor repairs. Following are listed the steps involved in finalizing the arrangements for the project.

1. Grocery billing was established with A & P Store on Barton Street and with Love Produce Warehouse on Frid Street.
2. Arrangements were made with the Gas and Hydro Companies to have services commenced.
3. Administrative details were settled.
4. Areas of staff responsibilities were established as follows:

Suzanne Bokowski - Primary Tutor

Counsellor

Mary Cornell -

Parent Role Model

Counsellor

Resource Person

Co-leader Group Discussion





Mary-Liz Grise - Program organizer for  
Recreation and Arts and  
Crafts nights  
Co-leader for Group Discussion  
Counsellor

James Durka - Program Organizer for Life Skills  
and Outings nights  
Counsellor

Wayne McLennan - Clinician  
Back-up Interviewer  
Co-leader for Group Discussion  
Typist  
Counsellor

5. A co-operative approach was set up for Assistant Directorship. Each staff member alternated the Assistant Director position from week to week.
6. By March 30, 1979, the P.A.C.T. Project had received twelve family referrals. For monthly breakdown of families referred, look to Fig. # 1 statistical report.

April 1979

(a) Recreation Programming

To this date, staff was not successful in locating a gymnasium for the project despite all efforts.

(b) Staff Development


Issues dealt with during this month included reporting clients progress, staff support of one another and professionalism. Group 'Sensitivity' sessions were begun with staff at this time.

(c) Community Outreach

Letters of introduction were sent out to appropriate referral sources. Letters requesting donations of food products etc., were also sent out.

(d) Program Planning

Alterations were made in program planning. Client group night was divided into adolescent and parent sub-groups to facilitate the group process. Mary-Liz Grise and James Durka exchanged program responsibilities. Ms. Grise retained the co-leadership



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of client group discussion night. The first statistical analysis for the P.A.C.T. Project was completed by Wayne McLennan.

May 1979

(a) Program Planning

Adolescent and parent sub-groups were once again united. The gymnasium at St. Charles School was made available to P.A.C.T. every Thursday night. As a result, life skills was switched to Monday night and recreation was switched to Thursday night. Summer programming for P.A.C.T. was being developed by Ms. Bokowski. It was decided that it would be in the best interests of the project to retain the same hours of functioning (3:00 - 10:00 p.m.) with flexibility.

(b) Staff Development

Staff development continued with group sensitivity sessions. Mr. Peter McDonald of C.C.A.S. addressed staff regarding issues of Intake, Outreach and Authority. Staff took part in two 'special' case conferences regarding two clients.

June 1979

(a) Program Planning

Mary-Liz Grise was appointed to co-author the statistical analysis with Wayne McLennan. Staff began utilizing a new report format for clients. Summer programming of special interests for adolescents was begun. The C.C.A.S. workers went on strike, which subsequently slowed down the referral process. Length of the strike is unknown. Staff has continued to function with current clients. One family completed their contract with P.A.C.T. this month. One staff member received a letter of warning from Miss Georgina J. Gibbons, Executive Director of C.C.A.S. with reference to an inability to organize an effective client-centered program and constructive working relationships, and to appropriately accept supervisory input.

(b) House Facility

The third floor of the P.A.C.T. house became available for staff and client usage June 3, 1979.





July 16/79 to October 31/79

(a) McMaster

Dr. Woodward has advised P.A.C.T. that our data collection tools are adequate and that we are no longer in need of her services. P.A.C.T. still has access to the computer.

(b) Staff Turnover

Three staff members have left P.A.C.T. Our current staff compliment is four line workers and a director. There is an excess of man-weeks available to utilize before January 11, 1980. Mr. Jack Hayes, Assistant Executive Director, C.C.A.S. has given permission to hire.

(c) Community Outreach and Public Relations

P.A.C.T. assumed responsibility for it's own public relations in August. Some of the agencies and institutions approached were:

Catholic Social Services

Hamilton Recreation Department

Camp Marydale

R.C.S.S.B.

Chedoke Child and Family Centre

Child & Adolescent Unit

Etc.

Letters of introduction to P.A.C.T. were sent to appropriate contacts in the community. An informal coffee session for C.C.A.S. staff was held, as was an inter-agency Open House. The National Catholic Register placed an article on P.A.C.T. in it's September issue.

(d) Staff Development

Staff development has included speaking engagements by C.C.A.S. staff and extra-Agency social workers, as well as new staff training.

Mr. D. Birtwistle, Co-ordinator of P.A.C.T., has provided on-going talks regarding such areas of concern as professionalism, authority on the job etc. Wednesday afternoon sessions at Unified Family Court have been attended by P.A.C.T. staff.

November 1/79 to December 31/79

Staff Turnover:

As of November 1, 1979, 37.80 man weeks extra remained to the Project. Ratification by the Catholic Children's Aid was given to hire two line workers and one clerical person. Accordingly, three workers





were hired and are currently on staff. There are six line-workers, one secretary and one director employed on the Project.

#### Trends in Client Population

During November P.A.C.T. serviced fourteen children and fourteen adults excluding casual one-to-one's and visits made by former client families. December saw a gradual phasing out of clientelle until the client population was depleted.

#### Highlights and Projections

Mrs. M. Kiss, Public Relations Supervisor C.C.A.S. notified Mr. D. Birtwistle, Co-ordinator P.A.C.T., and <sup>Mr. LARSEN</sup> ~~myself~~ that CHCH T.V. in Hamilton would be interviewing us on their Mid-day Television Program. The taping was December 13, 1979. A client family was interviewed by Mr. McLean. To maintain client confidentiality they were filmed in silhouette.

P.A.C.T. and the Volunteer Department of the C.C.A.S. co-authored a proposal for the inclusion of volunteers as a support service to P.A.C.T. A copy of this report is attached. Because it was felt to be in the best interest of P.A.C.T. to shut down for the holiday week in December a staff holiday proposal was approved by the Agency.

#### Staff Development

Mr. Birtwistle gave a presentation to P.A.C.T. staff regarding being a Social Worker at the C.C.A.S. and authority. New staff was trained.

#### WORK

##### Total Weeks Utilized in 1979

Project Manager	52
Other Employees	<u>258.5</u>
Total	310.5





POTENTIAL REFERRALS IN 1980

Without an active referral search, the following clients have indicated an interest in contracting or re-contracting in 1980.

<u>Number of Families</u> .....	10
Dual Parent.....	2
Single Parent.....	8

<u>Number of Children</u>	
Boys, ages - 8-12 years .....	9
Girls, ages - 8-12 years.....	1
Boys, ages - 13-16 years.....	4
Girls, ages - 13-16 years.....	1
Children, data unknown.....	<u>2</u>

Total Number of Children .....	17
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PER DIEM CALCULATIONS FOR 1979

Estimated Cost of Project	\$63,218.00
Number of Child-Client Days	1,965.00
Per Diem Rate for 1979	\$32.17

OPTIMAL CHILD-CLIENT: STAFF RATIO BASED ON PERIOD

October 1 to December 20, 1979

Number of Child-Client Days	909
Number of Staff Days	384
Clients Per Staff - Per Day	2.37





ESTIMATED PER DIEM CALCULATIONS FOR 1980

SCHEDULE 1

Length of operative year - Jan. 14 - Dec. 31 - 353 days

Child - Client: Staff Ratio	Number of Line Workers	
	5	4 Plus Parent Worker
2.37:1	\$20.56	\$25.64
3.00:1	16.21	20.26
4.00:1	12.16	15.19
5.00:1	9.72	12.16

SCHEDULE 2

Length of operative year - Jan. 14 - June 30 - 322 days

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

Child - Client: Staff Ratio	Number of Line Workers	
	5	4 Plus Parent Worker
2.37:1	\$22.49	\$28.11
3.00:1	17.77	22.21
4.00:1	13.33	16.66
5.00:1	10.66	13.33





PER DIEM CALCULATIONS CONTINUED

Notes

1. Schedule 1 assumes continuous operation with staff taking staggered holidays. Schedule 2 assumes closedown for the month of July.
2. Per diem calculations are based on a budget allocation of \$85,819.46, as proposed to the Board of Directors of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth on October 16, 1979.
3. Per diem calculations are based on a child-staff ratio and do not include parent involvement which in some cases is considerable. Also not included is the effect of learned parenting skills on other family members (siblings) vis-à-vis decreased entry into care.
4. Calculations assume a staff complement of six workers, including a director and a parent worker. The first column in each Schedule assumes the parent worker also works with children as a primary worker.
5. The mean length of stay in 1979 was 59 days. For this reason it must be kept in mind when comparing P.A.C.T. per diem rates with costs of care that the average length of stay of a child in care is considerably longer. Rates, therefore, cannot be compared on a day-for-day basis. Per diem rates for fostering of children over six years range from \$7.30 to \$10.60. while rates for group homes and "outside institutions" range from \$40.00 to \$70.00.









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